

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 CU-04 NIC-01 IO-14

DRC-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 /145 W

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R 300800Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9622

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJ: TANAKA TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA: FONOFF REACTIONS

REF: TOKYO 1153

SUMMARY: OF FIVE COUNTRIES RECENTLY VISITED BY PRIMIN,
THAILAND IS SUBJECT OF GREATEST FONOFF CONCERN ON
MATTERS OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. PART OF
DIFFICULTY THERE, ACCORDING TO ONE OFFICER, SHOULD
BE CHARGED TO US MEDIA FOR SUGGESTING THAT GOJ AID
TERMS ARE WORSE THAN THOSE OF OTHER DONORS. FONOFF
BELIEVES MANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN CRITICISMS ARE
UNFOUNDED AND THAT HOST GOVTS HAVE
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PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROLLING FOREIGN
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. FONOFF IS HAVING DIFFICULTY

DEVISING ANY REMEDIAL MEASURES. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFFS MET ON JAN 29 WITH FONOFF FIRST AND SECOND SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION HEADS (HANABUSA AND FUJITA) TO DISCUSS THEIR CONSIDERED REACTIONS TO PRIMIN TANAKA'S RECENT TRIP THROUGH SOUTHEAST ASIA. BOTH HAD BEEN ALONG WITH PRIMIN, HANABUSA IN BANGKOK AND FUJITA AT ALL STOPS. DURING CONVERSATION, HANABUSA DID MOST OF TALKING BECAUSE FUJITA IS NEW TO PRESENT JOB AND BECAUSE THAI SITUATION (WHICH IS WITHIN HANABUSA'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY) POSES MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEM IN FONOFF CALCULATIONS. THOUGH EVENTS IN JAKARTA WERE MORE DRAMATIC, AND FONOFF PERCEIVES MORE SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN INDONESIA THAN IN THAILAND, HANABUSA AND FUJITA AGREED THAT TANAKA'S VISIT, AND JAPANESE ECONOMIC PRESENCE, WERE PRETEXT RATHER THAN BASIC CAUSE OF JAKARTA RIOTS. ANTI-GOVT ELEMENT WAS ALSO PRESUMED TO BE PRESENT IN BANGKOK DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT FONOFF BELIEVES THAI RESENTMENT OF JAPANESE WAS BASIC MOTIVATION. (WE ALSO HAVE FEELING FONOFF IS FOCUSING PARTICULARLY ON THAILAND BECAUSE IT HAD ALREADY STUDIED SITUATION IN WAKE OF EARLIER STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND HAD ATTEMPTED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN GOJ POLICY.)

2. IN DISCUSSING WHAT CONCLUSIONS GOJ SHOULD DRAW FROM EVENTS OF TANAKA TRIP, AND WHAT REMEDIAL ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN, HANABUSA DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE FRUSTRATION MIXED WITH PERSONAL PIQUE. HE INSISTED THAT CRITICISMS VOICED BY STUDENTS AND PRESS IN THAILAND--AND HE IMPLIED SAME TRUE ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA-- WERE HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE AND LARGELY UNSUPPORTED BY TRUE FACTS OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC PRESENCE AND GOJ AID. ON LATTER POINT HANABUSA HEATEDLY SCORED US RPT US MEDIA FOR INACCURATELY PERPETUATING VIEW THAT GOJ AID TERMS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN THOSE OF OTHER DONOR

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COUNTRIES. HE CONTENDED THAT SUCH QTE PROPAGANDA UNQTE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF JAPAN'S CURRENT WOES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

HANABUSA AND FUJITA SAID THEY HAD BEEN ASKED TO DEVISE REMEDIAL ACTION PROPOSALS WITH DUE DATE IN EARLY FEBRUARY, BUT WERE FRANK TO ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE YET TO COME UP WITH ANY COMPELLING IDEAS. HANABUSA POINTED OUT THAT CONTROL OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND TRADE IS PROPERLY RESPONSIBILITY OF RECEIVING GOVT. AND GOJ

AS SENDING GOVT HAS VERY LITTLE LEVERAGE
WITH WHICH TO AFFECT SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION
HE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF
NEWLY CREATED MINISTRY FOR OVERSEAS COOPERATION
(REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: HANABUSA'S BEHAVIOR AND STATEMENTS
ON THIS OCCASION MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT:
(A) POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HAS BLUNTLY CHALLENGED
FONOFF TO COME UP WITH REMEDIAL PROGRAM BUT THAT
(B) FONOFF IS SUFFERING FROM RAGE AND FRUSTRATION
DUE TO CONVICTION THAT JAPANESE HAVE BEEN UNFAIRLY
CRITICIZED AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE GOJ CAN EFFECTIVELY
DO. OUR GUESS IS THAT HEAT OF CURRENT BUREAUCRATIC
PREOCCUPATION WILL SOON DIMINISH UNDER INFLUENCE OF
MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS, AND THAT GOJ WILL CONTINUE
TO LIBERALIZE AID TERMS ON SLOW AND SELECTIVE
BASIS. SHOESMITH

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